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State investments in Whitman County will retain existing jobs and boost new job creation supporting business development, plus future business growth through an economic feasibility study, as a result of actions taken at the September 15, 2005 meeting of the Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB).

Port of Whitman County

Construction Project

In Whitman County, the Port of Whitman County received conditional approval for a \$600,000 loan and \$400,000 grant to assist in the costs to expand a light industrial building approximately 17,500 square feet with associated site development costs including parking (65 new spaces), a retention pond for storm water run-off and landscaping. The Port will concurrently construct a 10,000 square foot building shell to accommodate future growth.

The Whitman County building supports the expansion of Isothermal Systems Research (ISR), at the Port's Pullman Industrial Park. The light industrial building expansion is required to meet ISR's growth needs and retain the company in Washington State. The Port's



Pullman Industrial Park is located two miles from the Washington State University (WSU) campus in Pullman and devoted to supporting research and development businesses. A key reason to locate at the Port of Whitman's technology park is the opportunity to have closer relationships with staff and students at WSU and take advantage of the technology park assets. University professors and staff have higher and more specific education and graduating students are more prepared to work in the fields related to technology businesses such as ISR.



"CERB's partnership with the Port of Whitman County has allowed the opportunity to retain a regional research and development business in Washington State and construct a state-of-the-art facility at an economy of scale for their expansion needs, which will result in the employment of 101 high paying jobs by ISR. The advantage of working with CERB on this project has been the ability to compete with urban areas and retain Isothermal Systems Research through the leveraging of CERB grant funds, a CERB low-interest loan, and deferred payment schedule," said Joe Poire, Executive Director, Port of Whitman County.

The public infrastructure improvements will support the retention of 70 existing jobs at ISR and create 31 additional jobs within three years of expanded operations. Isothermal Systems Research develops high-end cooling systems considered critical in protecting high-performance components used by industry and the military.

In addition to CERB funds, the Port and Whitman County will contribute more than \$2 million towards total building expansion costs.

Feasibility Study

For a second project in Whitman County, CERB conditionally approved a \$25,000 grant to the Port of Whitman County to conduct a feasibility study to evaluate constructing a small business incubator building at the Pullman Industrial Park which would be owned by the Port. The Pullman Industrial Park is developing a cluster of technology industries and feedback from these successful businesses at the Park points to their desire for like-industry in the area and have requested the Port recruit additional compatible technology entrepreneurs. The study will review the feasibility of constructing a building targeted for technology focused small business development. In addition to quantifying the hard construction and maintenance costs, the study will examine the market analysis and regional need for construction of a small business incubator and potential growth of research efforts at WSU in the next 10 years in order to justify such an investment.



Pullman Industrial Park

“The Port is devoted to supporting research and development and technology businesses in the Pullman Industrial Park. If determined feasible, a small business incubator facility would provide a ladder to technology sector growth, further supporting development of the technology cluster focus of the Pullman Industrial Park,” said Joe Poire, Executive Director, Port of Whitman County .

CERB funds are matched with \$25,000 from local sources to fund the feasibility study.

The release of CERB funds to these projects is contingent on each applicant completing specific pre-contract requirements, such as finalizing other funding sources and obtaining necessary permits.

UPDATE—Job Development Fund Program

The Job Development Fund Program (JDFP) approved by the 2005 Legislature with signing of ESHB 1903 into law, is a new program within CERB.

At the September 15, 2005 CERB meeting, draft JDF program guidelines, application and pre-application form were reviewed by CERB members. These documents will be revised for final changes and approval of the JDFP approach and solicitation at the upcoming November 17, 2005 CERB meeting.

In early October, stakeholder associations will be provided an opportunity to review and comment on the guidelines and application materials in preparation for the November 17 CERB meeting. The November meeting agenda will provide time to receive public comment.

CERB will issue a statewide solicitation by December 1, 2005 for pre-applications, with final applications due April 3, 2006. CERB will evaluate and prioritize projects at either the May 18, 2006 or July 20, 2006 meetings.

CERB Board Members and Staff September 2005

GOVERNOR APPOINTED

Tom Trulove, Board Chair
Cheney, Washington
Public Sector Economist

Jeffrey Matson, Vice Chair
Sunnyside, Washington
Port Official

George Raiter
Kelso, Washington
County Official

Vicki Gordon
Pasco, Washington
Small Business Representative

Dennis Townsend
Eatonville, Washington
Small Business Representative

Jack Pittis
Port Angeles, Washington
Public Representative

Julie L. Anderson
Tacoma, Washington
City of Official

Peter Han
Redmond, Washington
Large Business Representative

Marty Gardner
Kennewick, Washington
Large Business Representative

Leroy Williams
Bremerton, Washington
Small Business Representative

Miland Walling
Bickleton, Washington
Small Business Representative

Vacant
Federally Recognized Indian
Tribe Representative

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Senator Tracey Eide
Senate Majority Caucus

Senator Mike Hewitt
Senate Minority Caucus

Representative John McCoy
House Majority Caucus

Representative Dan Newhouse
House Minority Caucus

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Elizabeth Robbins
Dept. of Transportation

Gary Kamimura
Employment Security Dept.

Victor Vasquez
Community Trade & Econ. Dev.

Skeets Johnson
Dept. of Revenue

CERB/CEAC

Kate Engle Rothschild
CERB Program Manager

Janea Eddy
CERB Program Assistant

Dara Fredericksen
CEAC Managing Director

Matt Ojennus
JDFFP Program Coordinator

Jerri Smith
JDFFP Program Assistant

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Dick Larman
PDS Managing Director

Brent Bahrenburg
Project Dev. Staff

Terry Lawhead
Project Dev. Staff

Bob Sandoval
Project Dev. Staff



Upcoming CERB Meetings

November 17, 2005

January 19, 2006
(Applications due December 5, 2005)

March 16, 2006
(Applications due January 30, 2006)

CERB is a state economic development resource strategically focused to help business and industry create and retain jobs in partnership with local communities.

CERB provides financing for construction of public facilities that support private sector development and increased employment opportunities.

Management support is provided by Community, Trade & Economic Development, Washington's lead agency charged with enhancing and promoting sustainable economic vitality throughout the state.

Communities with potential projects are encouraged to contact CERB staff at 360.725.4058 or by email to KateR@cted.wa.gov

